



# Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.

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176-32021

September 24, 1976

Honorable George Bush  
The Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bush:

I appreciated the prompt letter of August 13 from Mr. Andrew T. Falkiewicz as your Assistant replying to the resolution of the Board of Governors of this Club. I have waited until the Board could meet and discuss this letter before writing you again.

At the Board's meeting this week, the members reviewed at length the disturbing complexities of the mix between the Central Intelligence Agency and the American press. We realize that there are many problems yet to be solved if both your Agency and the members of the press are to do their separate and independent jobs for the benefit of the American people.

In this discussion, the members' first concern was for the protection of the credibility and safety of working journalists. The consensus was that your statement that the CIA will no longer "enter into any paid or contractual relationship" with members of the press is a major step in that direction. It is particularly valuable because it comes directly from the Office of the Director rather than through third parties.

But the Board passed a motion unanimously expressing its continuing concern over the "other side of the coin." That is that the CIA should not use the "cover" of journalist, newspaperman, reporter, broadcaster, etc. for CIA agents. The Board insists that this practice be stopped because it clearly endangers not only the credibility but the very lives of American and other journalists working abroad. And we ask that the CIA make public its policy of not using journalistic "covers" so that it is known around the globe.

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-2-

As working journalists with some responsibility for the continuation of a free and effective press in this country, we hope that you will take our concern seriously and make clear your agency's policy on this additional point.

Sincerely,  
*Matthew A.R. Bassity*  
Matthew A.R. Bassity  
President,  
Overseas Press Club

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